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N. E. FARMER.

OXALIC ACID—SORREL.—REPLY TO "D."

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

Dear Sir—I commonly receive your paper the morning after its publication. No. 47, (May 24th,) came to me twentyfour hours in advance. I was sure it was not my regular number, for on opening it, I found the hand of the person who sent it, pointing to the communication of "D." on the 1st page. Though I do not feel myself called upon to reply to the request of "D.," because thus publicly made, I shall be happy, if in this instance I can throw any light upon the subject to which his paper refers, by laying before him such thoughts as have occurred to me on reading his remarks.

Mr Darling has stated in his extract from Dr. Kane, and in his own remarks, (see N. E. Far. May 17,) the well known, long received, and established chemistry of the organic acids of plants, and their transformations. To recall this to mind, I would state the main facts, as chemists understand them, relating to oxalic acid:

1st. Plants form oxalic acid. Almost every, perhaps all, plants contain this acid. The soil seldom contains traces of oxalic acid. Whenever it is there found, it has proceeded from organic decomposition; decaying plants. That plants form this acid, is evident from the fact that some *lichens* grown on naked granitic rocks, contain from 20 to 66 per cent. of oxalate of lime.

2d. Oxalic acid does not exist in plants *free*. It is always combined with a base—generally with lime or potash. In sorrel, (including in this both wood and common sheep's sorrel—*oxalis* and *rumex*)—the oxalic acid exists as super oxalate of potash. Each portion of potash is combined with four portions of acid. The salt of sorrel is the *salt of lemons* of the shops.

3d. These bases, lime and potash, are essential to the formation of oxalic acid by plants. The plants never form bases. They are derived from the soil or air. Hence, before the oxalate-forming plant, *sorrel*, can grow, the bases to saturate its acid as it is formed, must freely exist in soil.

4th. Oxalic acid is composed of—carbon, two parts; oxygen, three parts. We cannot, plants probably do not, form oxalic acid by the direct union of its elements. We can, and do, for the arts, transform starch and sugar, by the aid of aquafortis, into oxalic acid. So, plants, wonderfully more exquisite in their elaboratory, transform sugar, starch and gum into oxalic acid. If we, in our imitation of nature, require the strongest acid, her delicate hand may effect a similar transformation by the aid of such weak acids as vinegar, and the organic acids found in muck and soil. There is some reason for this belief, when we call to mind the fact, that without any fermentation, sugar is easily transformed by weak vinegar into vinegar. This is a well known process. I go farther: plants transform these weak acids into oxalic acid. This is the great source of that acid. We have only to deprive, as does the plant, vinegar of its hydrogen, and double its oxygen, to convert it into oxalic acid. This is done by the oxalate-forming plant, simply by the aid of oxygen only, as we in our process of art, change alcohol to vinegar by a current of air and the aid of a ferment. Life is this ferment in the plant. Oxygen in either case effects all the other change.

To apply these principles to the remarks of "D." It has been shown that lime and potash are essential to the existence of oxalate forming plants, as sorrel; that weak organic acids are easily transformed into oxalic acid. When, therefore, such acids dissolve, and supply easily the lime and potash to the plant, the acids being in excess, (for we have seen that the salt of sorrel is a super salt,) these oxalates will be formed. In other words, sorrel grows best where free acids and small portions of alkali exist. By applying sour muck, filled with weak organic acids and their bases, to soil, we supply it with the food of sorrel. Lime, or potash only, is not this food. Dissolve these bases by weak organic acids, form super-salts of them, and you may expect to find, yea, you do find, oxalates produced, sorrel growing.

But it is said that the common chemical doctrine of the agricultural press is wrong. What is that doctrine? *Neutralize the free acids—take the sour out of the soil*, and sorrel grows not. The doctrine is, *neutralize*. All hangs on that word. If you only *partially* neutralize, you supply the sorrel with its natural food—an acid salt. You feed it, both with its acid in excess, to be converted into oxygen, and the base with which that acid is to combine. You give the sorrel, in the same spoon, both its solid and liquid food:—these acid salts are the hasty-pudding of plants.

But is it possible that "a coat of lime two inches thick," does not neutralize the acids? Yea. Your coat of lime is here *on* the surface. It has been slacked there. During that process, if by air only, it has become an insoluble carbonate: it has not entered the soil. If slacked by water, then a small portion has entered the soil as lime-water. This portion *has not neutralized* the small portion of organic acid in that soil. I go farther: its excess has caused the inert vegetable matter to become acid to a greater degree than the lime can saturate. It has formed with it an acid salt. In this salt, sorrel finds its food. It pushes up through your two inches of coating. That insoluble carbonate does not affect its growth any more than sand. The small portion of lime added *to*, not *upon*, the soil, having furnished the food for which the sorrel had famished, *that* now springs up, rejoicing that the lime has caused the indifferent vegetable matter to become acid, and to act upon the potash of the soil. Perhaps in these cases, lime is substituted for potash,—an isomorphous substitution.

Lay down your spent ashes, Mr Editor, in a heap. You know its alkaline power is developed slowly by the action of air upon its silicate of potash. Cart it off now, to top dress your reclaimed meadow. You have left, where your pile was, the very material to partly saturate the organic acids of the soil—perhaps even increased them. You have formed acid salts, by whose absorption oxalate-forming plants, sorrel, will be produced. That this effect may follow an under dose of alkalies, may be understood from what has been advanced. If *all* the acid is *fully* neutralized, then the transformation of the neutral salt is probably not effected:—sorrel grows not. If, on the other hand, you supply the weak organic acids freely, as by sour muck, these, finding in all soils a small portion of lime and potash, the super-salts are formed, and sorrel grows. It will grow till the acids are exhausted.

I consider, then, Mr Editor, that the common opinion is well founded. I have great reverence for common opinion on such subjects. It is generally based on observation. In this case, it is supported by chemical philosophy. The doctrine of the agricultural press appears, in the present state of our knowledge, to be the true one. *Neutralize the free acids*—but do this by *soluble* alkalies *in* the soil, not *on* it.

To the last inquiry of "D." I reply, there is no better test of the presence of acid in the soil, than the growth of sorrel or oxalate-forming plants. It is often a better test than the chemist can apply. Unfortunately it is an analyst always ready for the task. Like his brother analysts, he points out the existence of evil, but leaves to others the task of remedy, which the study of his habits teaches.

With great regard, your ob't serv't,

SAM'L L. DANA.

Lowell, June 2d, 1843.

SUGAR.

No one article, perhaps, enters so largely into the use of every class in society, as sugar. We scarcely eat or drink that sugar does not form a part. Who then can doubt the importance of the recent experiments by which it appears that, acre for acre, the cornstalk will vie with if not surpass the cane. In every State in this Union, sugar may be produced, and instead of the enormous importation from abroad, we shall be enabled to produce this great article at home, thereby rewarding our own people, and making the return to our own soil. It is true that experience is still necessary, but the tact and aptitude of our people will soon acquire this, and if each farmer shall not make his own sugar, he may supply the cornstalk to some neighboring factory that will do it for him. Our Indian corn crop can be extended to almost any required extent, and the time may not be far distant when we shall become exporters of sugar. It appears from Mr Ellsworth's report, that the beet sugar is diminishing in France, and from the policy of the government there, giving place to that of the French colonies; but that the cornstalk has there already attracted notice: already the experiments made leave no doubt of the preference of the corn over the beet, and induce a strong probability that it will also surpass the cane. Corn will thrive better in our Middle and Northern States, than in the tropical regions.—*Far. Month. Vis.*

From the Providence Chief.

PREMIUMS OF THE RHODE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

No. II.

The second premium offered by the Society, is "For a satisfactory, and the most satisfactory statement, showing the value of apples, or any kind of root, compared with Indian corn, per bushel, as food for cattle, horses, sheep, or swine—twenty dollars." The fourth premium, of fifteen dollars, is "For the most satisfactory statement of the comparative cost of keeping stock on roots and hay, or on dry fodder alone."

These subjects cover a broad field for experiment, and they are of vital interest to the New England farmer. Indian corn is here an expensive crop; at the West, it is procured with so little labor, and in such vast abundance, that the culture of root crops and apples, as food for domestic animals, is never thought of. The production of cider at the present day, is an object of trifling consequence to the farmer; and except for vinegar, it would be well if this unwholesome and unpalatable beverage should go into disuse entirely. To turn the products of cider orchards to profitable account is now a desirable object in rural economy, and within a few years, great use has been made of this hardy fruit as food for stock. Its value for this purpose is variously estimated, although the evidence greatly preponderates in its favor.

The value of all our root crops as winter food, combined with the dry food which constitutes so great a portion of their sustenance during that severe season, is admitted by every intelligent farmer, but the sustaining and fattening qualities of apples and roots can only be determined by comparative trials; and Indian corn, the nutritious properties of which are established beyond all cavil, is selected as a standard of comparison.

Here is another instance in which we need certain data; and it is to be hoped that there will be many competitors for the premiums, from whom such information may be derived, as will remove at least, some of the doubt and uncertainty in which the whole subject is now involved.

In competing for these premiums, there is one consideration which must never be lost sight of; that is the comparative advantage to the health and comfort of farm stock, when supported upon a mixed food, or upon dry fodder alone. We have no hesitation in saying, that no kind of farm stock can be kept in a perfectly healthy and thriving condition, upon dry feed, however excellent it may be. The contrast from full pasturage to the stalls, where nothing but hay is fed out, and from the stalls to the succulent spring feed, is invariably attended by symptoms which any intelligent observer must see is indicative of severe trial to the health and constitution of the animal. The ox that is kept upon an alternation of roots and hay, is ready for spring work, in thriving condition, and spirits in good tone. He is refreshed and not drenched and debilitated by an occasional bite of green herbage.

It is stated upon the authority of an experienced farmer, who used fifty horses and twenty-eight head of working oxen on his farm, "that his bullocks never tasted any other fare during the winter, except turnips and straw, with perhaps a handful of hay while the plowmen were eating their dinner, that they were never spared a day's usual work; and that thus fed, he considered one ox as equal to the work of two on hay alone."

The cow, the most valuable of our domestic animals, when suffered to run dry, by many farmers, is kept upon the most interior kind of provender, such as bog hay, straw, or butts, even up to the period of calving. "This, however, is highly improvident; for, although it is not necessary to keep them during that time in full flesh, yet, if allowed to fall off until they become lean, their milk will be found thin, as well as deficient, and the injury to the future stock, if the calves be reared, or the consequent inferiority of the produce of the dairy, will more than equal any saving that can be made in fodder. Milch kine, should, in fact, be at all times maintained not only in good condition, but in what may be termed, a *milky habit;* and for this purpose succulent roots should always be given liberally, along with whatever food is given them."

We want no better evidence of miserable husbandry, than feeding milch cows and young stock through our long winters, on low meadow hay alone. In the first place, it is owing to the ignorance or the idleness of the farmer, that he does not make his bog meadow, as he might, in a majority of cases, produce the best fodder in the greatest abundance, and in the second place, cows and young stock thus fed, are little better in the spring than living skeletons. We have seen within a month, some of these fleshless carcasses exposed for sale in our market—round-backed, shriveled, stunted yearlings, and forlorn, melancholy looking cows, that betokened the want of thrift and management, not less than the inhumanity of their owners.

M.

From the Albany Cultivator.

BUTTER MAKING.

We have been favored with three replies to the inquiries of "The Neighbors," on the subject of making butter, published in our last number. We annex two of them—one from a lady of Vermont, to the superior quality of whose butter we can testify, and the other from a lady of Orange county, whence comes the best butter found in the New York markets.—*Ed. Cult.*

Messrs. Editors—A request has been made through the medium of your paper, for some practical dairy-woman to give a minute description of the process of making good butter; the kind of pan, churn, ladle, &c.; but my own experience is all I shall attempt to relate, and that will not comprise information with regard to improved materials, or any great variety; for I used the old fashioned brown earthen pan, and a churn that might have been manufactured from some of the first timber ever felled in Vermont, and the only ladle used was my hands.

The process of setting and skimming the milk, removing the cream preparatory to churning, and separating the liquid from the butter after having been thoroughly churned, demand great attention. Great care should be taken to have the pans perfectly cleansed. Never having practiced making butter to any extent, in mid-summer, there are some items in my experience that would not be applicable to those who are engaged in the business for the whole year. My practice was to place the pans, after cleansing, around the fire, keeping them warm till wanted for the milk, which was strained while warm into the pan, and placed immediately upon a shelf, where it should by no means be disturbed until the time of removing the cream, which varied from two to three days, depending upon the heat, cold, or dampness of the weather. The milk was not suffered to become acid, or at all thickened; and the cream when taken from the milk, was separated from it as entirely as possible, and churned in three or four days, and always at evening in cool weather. Cream was removed from the milk into a stone jar, and kept closely covered until a sufficient quantity for making twelve or fifteen pounds was obtained. The churn was prepared for the cream by the application of boiling water, suffered to remain in it thirty or forty minutes, when it was removed and the cream put in to stand a little time before churning, and occasionally stirred by raising the dash. It was then churned moderately at first, the rapidity of motion increasing as the cream thickened; nor was the labor suspended until the butter was collected into one mass; it was then removed to a wooden tray or bowl with the hands, pressing out all the buttermilk possible, and a little salt added, when it was removed to a cool place to remain until the following morning; then thoroughly worked, and a little salt well mixed, and again placed in the dairy for several hours, when it was again carefully worked, and if necessary, salt added, and a teaspoonful of saltpetre, with twice the quantity of white sugar pulverized, to every six pounds of butter. It was then made into small rolls, and carefully packed in a firkin. If to be kept through the summer, brine should be made to cover it.

If I have not been sufficiently definite in relating my experience in butter making, to enlighten one person, to say nothing of "The Neighbors," it may have a tendency to elicit some other person's experience which shall be decidedly beneficial, not only to "The Neighbors," but to community.

MARTHA.

Messrs. Gaylord & Tucker—In the May No. of the Cultivator, "The Neighbors" propounded some questions as to butter making. Living, as I do, in Orange county, which ranks A, No. 1, in the manufacture of butter, I felt an anxiety to give the desired information, and for this purpose have obtained the following directions from an aged female friend, who for uwards of 40 years, has had the management of a large dairy, and has probably made and packed down 1500 firkins of the very choicest Orange Co. butter, with her own hands.

Here you have it, "*verbatim et literatim.*"

Newburgh, May 15, 1843. T. M. NIVEN.

"One of the first requisites is perfect cleanliness in every utensil and implement used about the dairy. The butter should always be made and worked in a cool cellar. The milk-pails (wood is preferred,) should never be used for any other purpose; they should be thoroughly cleansed daily, and be well aired and dried after washing. Immediately after milking, the milk should be strained into tin pans usually holding 12 or 14 quarts—the pans of course being clean and sweet; a little cold spring water being put into each pan before the milk is put into them.

In warm summer weather, the milk should stand in the pans about 24 hours, or until it becomes thick. The milk is then thrown into the churn, filling it about half full, (always remembering the first requisite of cleanliness and sweetness,) and is permitted to stand about half an hour before the

churn is started. Care is to be taken that the churn works moderately, as too great rapidity of motion is injurious both to the flavor and color of the butter.

Dissolve one table-spoonful of saltpetre to 15 gallons of milk, and put it in before the churn is started, adding as little water as possible during the process, merely to prevent the milk frothing. As soon as the butter is formed, the churn should be stopped. A pailful of cold spring water may now be added, as it will assist the gathering of the particles of butter. The wooden butter-ladle and tray are now required; they both need scalding with boiling water, and are then kept in cold water until the moment they are needed. The butter is gathered with the ladle and put into the tray, where it is worked with the ladle for some time, until the milk is all expressed from the butter, a little cold water being used for this purpose. Too free use of water at this stage is injurious, as it tends to destroy the rich flavor of the butter.

The salt may now be added, (best Liverpool fine salt is preferred,) and as a general rule I would say one quart of salt to 15 gallons of milk, but a little experience will enable every person to judge of this for themselves; the salt should be thoroughly worked through the butter. In very warm weather, it may be necessary to let the butter stand in the tray 12 to 18 hours, in a cool, dark cellar, frequently working it over during this time, and expressing the brine until it becomes cool and solid; it is then in a situation for packing away in the tub or firkin, and should be carefully excluded from the atmosphere until used."

From the Central New York Farmer.

MILKING.

Messrs. Editors—That a material loss is sustained by the dairyman from the manner in which the process of milking is usually performed, there is no doubt. In milk, the most valuable part is the lightest, as we see from the cream rising to the surface of the vessel; and it is reasonable to suppose that the same relative position is maintained in the udder as in the pan or pail; that is, the cream or richest part, is in the highest part of the lacteal vessels, and of course, is the last to be extracted in milking. When this operation is carelessly performed, or in other words, the cow is not milked clean, the best part is left in the udder, and lost to the dairy. It may be said, however, that what is left at one time is obtained at another, and is not therefore lost; but it must be remembered that the process of absorption is constantly going on, and that by leaving the richest part for this action of the vessels, it is irrecoverably lost; and besides, the more completely the vessels are emptied the greater the secretions will be. I do not approve of this dripping or stripping, as it is called; for the quicker a cow is milked and milked clean, the more milk she will give. All dairymen are aware of the fact that to dry a cow, nothing more is necessary than to only partly drain her udder at each successive milking—that is, unless we leave off entirely. I do not speak without knowing. We have had hired help for several seasons past, and they generally milked, and it was enough to have worn out the patience of the animal, and much more the patience of man, in waiting for them to milk their number of cows. I do n't wish to be be understood that all are alike, but in too many instances it is the case. The milker should be instructed to milk as fast as his strength will allow; and the idle or slow milker I would at once discharge from this branch of the dairy. While some will milk from twelve to fourteen cows an hour, others do not—I won't say cannot—milk more than eight. I have had experience enough, although young, to know something about milking, and how quick a cow can be milked. I am confident that by attention to this point, the dairyman would find an important addition would be made to the sum total of his annual profits.

WESTERN.

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

BLINDERS FOR HORSES AGAIN.

I also concur in the views contained in the former Visitor, upon the wisdom of dispensing with blinds for horses. It is also recommended by considerations of economy, as the plain bridle will answer the double purpose for harness and saddle. All horse dealers of experience know that dark stables are apt to make horses shy and take fright, and it is common to man as well as animals, to have most fear in the dark.

In Spain, where bull fights are a national diversion, these animals are always previously kept for some time, in a dark place, which renders them fierce and malicious, which they would not be to so great a degree if kept in the light.

But in this matter of blinders to horses, we have to encounter fashion and long usage; and the former, beyond all question, is the most formidable of the two. If this was an affair which was in the hands of the French milliners, and they would but set the example, we should see how quickly it would travel from metropolis to metropolis, city, town and country. Of all the monarchs of the earth, fashion holds the first and foremost rank, defying the power of despotism itself.

Like many other fashions, familiarity alone could recommend its continuance; for a bridle without blinds has the better appearance, and is also better for the preservation of the vision of the horse.

SYLVANUS.

Salt for Grub Worms.—A correspondent of the New Genesee Farmer says, that after finding the grub worm was cutting off his corn and cabbages at a sad rate, he first applied ashes, then soot, and Scotch snuff to the hill, hoping to destroy or drive away the worm, but it was all to no purpose. Afterwards, seeing it stated that *salt* was very disagreeable to the grub, he applied about two table spoonfuls to each hill of corn or cabbage, placing it so as not to touch the plant. The worms left them immediately.

Another says, that by putting about "a pinch" of salt to each plant, two or three times, the worm ceased his depredations. He also mentions a neighbor who watered his cabbages daily with water from a salt pork barrel, and was not troubled; but as soon as he discontinued the practice, his plants were attacked equally with his neighbors.—*Far. Cab.*

"I say, boy, stop that ox."
"I han't got no stopple, sir."
"Well, *head* him, then."
"He 's already headed, sir."
"Confound your impertinence—*turn* him."
"He 's right side out already, sir."—*Selected.*

SHEEP DESTROYERS OF CANKER WORMS.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

Sir—I notice in your valuable paper, vol. xxi. page 48, that a correspondent has told you "something worth knowing" about the destruction of canker worms by enclosing sheep in an orchard. Having had some evidence of the truth of the statement, from a similar experiment, I thought best to communicate it.

Having a flock of about fifty sheep which I wished to fatten for the shambles, I put them into an orchard near the house, for the convenience of feeding them with grain, vegetables, &c., in the winter of 1841, and kept them in the same until midsummer. When the canker worms appeared in the spring, I found this orchard free from injury by them, while those of my neighbors, within a stonesthrow, were stript of their verdure and the fruit destroyed. I attributed the absence of the worms to the animal oil left on the bodies of the trees by the sheep rubbing against them. It may be, however, as your correspondent suggests, that the canker worm was kept back by the odor of the sheep, or destroyed, as you say, by the animals feeding around the trees.

Hoping that others will test this cheap, and it appears, certain mode of averting the attacks of this destructive vermin,

I am, sir, yours, &c.
JOHN ALDRICH, *Gardener.*

Cranston, R. I., June 6, 1843.

Vermin on Vines.—We hope our gardeners will make various trials this summer, to destroy the bugs and worms that are so officious among garden plants. Charcoal dust can be readily procured in most places, and this article is beneficial to the plants in several ways—it improves the soil by attracting nitrous substances, and it raises the temperature about the plants around which it is placed, since the rays from the sun are not reflected back as they are from light colored substances. But charcoal dust is always offensive to insects and grubs, and though it may not kill them, it will drive them away. A little may be sifted over the plants every day or two, and we incline to think that charcoal will prove to be as good an article as any that has been recommended for garden plants.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

The Wheat Crop.—We regret to state that the appearance of the wheat crop in Western New York, is very unfavorable. We dislike all croaking, but we speak advisedly when we assert that the wheat crop of Western New York will not be more than half an average one.—*New Genesee Far.*

"*Spare the Birds.*"—Were there no birds to keep in check the myriads of voracious insects which swarm around us, our country, it may well be believed, would cease to be habitable by man. We may form some idea of the value of birds, from calculating the labors of a single species. Each red-winged blackbird devours, on an average, fifty grubs a day. One pair, in four months, consume more than 12,000. If there are in New England one million pairs of these birds, then they will consume 12,000,000,000 grubs in one summer.—*Peabody's Birds of Mass.*

Papers from the South bring intelligence of the decease of Hon. James M. Garnett, of Virginia, late President of the National Agricultural Society.

For the N. E. Farmer.

ACTION OF LIME ON THE SOIL AND CROPS.

Mr Putnam—Dear Sir—A friend lately called my attention to several articles which have been recently published in your paper, in which reference has been made to my reports, and my opinion was asked on the influence of lime as an amendment to acid soils. The fact of my not having seen those articles before, must be my apology to the writers for a seeming neglect of their questions. A few remarks I will now offer you on the action of lime on the soil and the crops raised upon it.

1st. It acts on the mineral acids and salts in the soil.
2d, " " on the organic matters, both acids and their salts.
3d, " " on the atmosphere.
4th, " " on the plants.

Each one of the above divisions, considered in detail, would form a long chapter, and I shall not have time now to do more than glance at the most prominent points of practical and scientific interest.

When free acids, or acid salts, exist in the soil, lime by combining with the acid, renders the soil neutral; and when carbonate of lime is brought into action, in this manner, it gives out gradually its carbonic acid.

If a soil contains alum, (sulphate of alumina and potash) or copperas, (sulphate of the prot. oxide of iron,) or if it contains any decomposable sulphate, carbonate of lime will prove a most beneficial manure and amendment of that soil. For two valuable products result, viz: carbonic acid and sulphate of lime. So, also, if nitrate of ammonia exists in the soil, carbonate of lime will take the acid, and the ammonia will be liberated in its most favorable condition, that of a carbonate. Phosphoric acid also forms with lime one of the constant ingredients of all the cereal grains, grasses, and leguminous vegetables. This acid in its free state, is generally injurious to plants. It is found free in the smut of Indian corn, and it is produced in the soil by the decomposition of fish and of some animal manures, which contain it in excess, or combined with a volatile base. Phosphate of lime is an almost insoluble salt, but it appears nevertheless to be absorbed readily by living plants, as has been proved both by analysis and by synthesis; the latter experiment being well known from the action of burnt bones, which seem to possess nearly if not quite as strong an action on plants as bones containing their animal matter.

Many other mineral salts owe their fertilizing power to the fact of their containing lime as their basis; but the above examples are sufficient to illustrate the action of that substance on mineral salts and acids in soils.

A few words may now be devoted to the consideration of the action of lime on the organic matters of soils, which are known under the names of mould or humus.

These names may be regarded as generic, including a great many species of proximate elements and their salts. Their study in detail, would occupy too much room in your paper, had I the time to enter fully into the description of all the matters which have thus far been discovered in mould. It may suffice for our present purpose, to state that mould exists in a great many different states. Sometimes it is nearly insoluble in water, or in the liquids usually formed by the decay of manures. At other times it is very soluble, both in water and in weak alkaline solutions, especially in the carbonate of ammonia. It is sometimes acid, but more frequently neutral, and when neutralized by certain matters, is almost if not wholly insoluble; while if combined with other matters, it is readily soluble in water. It is not always best to make it as soluble as possible, for there is danger (too often realized,) of its infiltrating into the subsoil with the rain water which washes it from the surface soil. By skillful management, a sufficiency is rendered soluble each year for the growth of the crop cultivated.

The following acids exist in the humus of all parts of the world:

Crenic acid,
Apocrenic acid,
Humic acid, and
Extract of humus.

Crenic acid forms two salts with lime, viz: a crenate and a sub-crenate. The former is most soluble in water, but the latter is not wholly insoluble. It is very readily dissolved by rain water, which contains a small quantity of carbonate of ammonia, and is also acted upon by all ammoniacal manures.

Apocrenic acid forms a dark brown salt with lime, which is still more insoluble in water than the crenate, but is likewise most readily decomposed by rain water and ammoniacal manures; giving up little by little its fertilizing acid in combination with another highly nitrogenized matter—ammonia.

Humic acid forms combinations with lime which are soluble in water and in ammoniacal solutions.

Extract of humus is also a compound body, and is neutral. It is highly charged with nitrogen, and is very soluble.

Crenic, apocrenic and humic acids all form insoluble compounds with the per-oxide of iron, and with manganese and with alumina. The yellow color of the subsoil is generally owing to the presence of the humate of the per-oxide of iron. The subsoil also contains a very large proportion of humate and crenate of lime, while the proportion of apocrenates of iron and of lime is much greater in the surface soil.

Now by the action of lime we may decompose these salts of iron, so as to bring out the combined acids in combination with lime, so as to render them available to plants. Thus even bog-iron ore may be made to give up its fertilizing ingredients, (the apocrenic, crenic and humic acids.)

A soil may be free from any sour taste, and may not redden the chemist's blue test paper, but it may still be in an electro negative condition; and this condition I have supposed to favor the growth of acid plants of certain kinds. So far as I have observed, this appears to be the case with respect to the growth of field sorrel. I know that it will grow under other circumstances, but not so luxuriantly or abundantly. Exceptions are said to "prove the rule"; and the cases cited by your correspondent "D." may be of this class. Perhaps all the conditions of the problem have not been noticed, and thus we have contradictory testimony. I can cite many cases directly opposite to the one he has given. The experiments of Elias Phinney, Esq., of Lexington; Mr Dyer, of Providence, and Mr Levi Bartlett, of Warner, N. H., seem to have set the question of the favorable influence of limed composts at rest. Sorrel disappeared where it was used. It is not contended that lime alone is capable of conferring fertility upon a barren sandy plain, or that it will meet every possible case. It will, however do much more than is generally known, when employed in a proper manner, by skillful hands. Its principal use with the farmer should be as a chemical agent in decomposing his composts, so as to render them fit for immediate use. I have advised the farmers generally in this primary region, so poor in calcareous matter, to mix into their composts of peat or swamp muck and barn-yard manure, which have stood one winter, a bushel of recently slacked lime to a wagon load of the compost, while digging it over in the spring, preparatory to spreading it on the soil. So far as I have heard, the result of this experiment has been universally favorable, and in all the cases where I have personally directed the operations, it has proved satisfactory. A much larger proportion of lime may be advantageously employed than what I have above mentioned, but even that small quantity produces a very good effect.

Top dressing with lime is liable to many objections, which do not present themselves when the lime is put into the compost, and thus at once neutralized. Top dressing with lime requires several years to make manifest its action, and it is not certain to act favorably, unless there is already a sufficiency of organic manures in the soil, for it to act upon.

So long as lime is attracting carbonic acid from the atmosphere, it must act unfavorably on growing plants, but when this ceases and the acids generated in the soil by the decay of vegetable matters begin to act on the carbonate of lime, then a very favorable influence is perceived, from the disengagement of carbonic acid gas, and the formation of the organic acid salts of lime.

Owing to this fact being overlooked, we have had much erroneous statistics on the use of lime as a manure, or amendment.

The action of lime on the atmosphere and on plants, is considered generally in the above remarks. Many other observations might be made on the same subject, but the above will perhaps suffice for the present. Lime enters into the composition of many of the saline ingredients of vegetables, and constitutes the basis of their ashes when they are burnt. In the state of oxalate of lime, it enters into the composition of all hard wood forest trees, existing in distinct crystals in their cells, more than a million distinct crystals of that salt having been counted in a square inch of the birch and locust by Prof. Bailey.

Oxalic acid, which takes its name from the circumstance of its having been obtained from the Oxalis acetosella, or Wood sorrel, exists in the Rumex genus, or field and garden sorrels, and also in several other genera of plants. It is composed of carbon and oxygen, in the proportions of 33.75 carbon +66.24 oxygen. It is possible for it to have been formed from the atmosphere and from water, but I am inclined to believe that it is more probably generated by the changes made in the organic acids which the plants absorb from the soil. The reasons for this opinion cannot be given here at length, since I should occupy too much of your paper. In the sorrel, oxalic acid is combined with potash, forming a bin-oxalate, or acid salt. In forest trees it is imprisoned in the cells, in the state of insoluble oxalate of lime.

But few experiments have been made to ascertain whether it exists in the soil. Indeed, some

chemists deny the fact, but do not give us any experiments to prove it. We well know that it does occur in the soil, forming the mineral called Humboltite, which consists of oxalic acid 46.14, and prot. oxide of iron 53.86. How extensively this salt exists in soils, is yet unknown, and it is also unknown how it would act on vegetation. It is probable that since it exists in all hard wood trees, that it may, by decay, form a manure, which would prove fertilizing to some species of plants.

The agricultural chemist knows full well that the moment organic matters enter the rootlets of plants, they begin to undergo transformations, which end in the assimilation of the convertible matter into the peculiar substances which compose the different parts of the stem, fruit and foliage.

Plants derive their nourishment from the air, from water, and from the soil—and any one who would limit them to but one of these sources of supply, provided by nature, is liable to commit grave errors in reasoning, which, however, he cannot very conveniently carry out in practice.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

C. T. JACKSON.

Boston, May 30th, 1843.

P. S.—In your kind notice of my article on experiments with chemical salts, you requested the farmers to experiment on Indian corn. I hope they will do so, and communicate their results to you. They cannot fail to prove interesting.

Will you also invite them to apply a small quantity of each salt in solution, to a patch of grass land. I suppose it is not too late yet to make the experiment. Saline manures generally augment, in a very remarkable manner, the foliage of plants, and this is what we want in mowing lands.

C. T. J.

From the Albany Cultivator.

LICE ON POULTRY.

Messrs. Editors—I have seen a number of recipes in the Cultivator lately, for destroying hen-lice. Any person that will try oil-cake meal, according to the direction in one of the back numbers of the Cultivator, I think will not be troubled with them. I had a hen-house last season, about 12 feet square, in which I kept 60 hens, the most of the time shut up, and the lice became so thick that I could not go into it without being almost covered with them. I took two quarts of oil meal, and sowed it with my hand, throwing it all about the house and nests, also up against the rafters and sides of the building, and I was not troubled with them afterwards. I used six quarts in the course of the summer—two quarts at each time; but I do not know but once would have answered, as I saw no lice after the first time I used it, and I did not clean out the house or nest in the whole summer, which should be done two or three times.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Poughkeepsie, April 18, 1843.

☞ *The Cut Worm.*—The Germantown Telegraph states that Mr Isaac Newton, of Delaware county, Penn., has discovered what is considered a certain remedy for the ravages of the cut worm. He has tried it several seasons, and in all cases with entire success. It is simply by mixing fine salt with plaster, in the proportion of one quart of salt to four quarts of plaster, and applying it to the corn after it has come up.—*Alb. Cult.*

For the N. E. Farmer.

THE LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

MR EDITOR—"A. Dey," who appends to his signature, "President of the Lodi Manufacturing Co.," has, in your paper of 3d May, for the sole purpose of drawing the public from the *true* point, i. e. the *value* of his poudrette as a manure, attacked the writer, or supposed writer, of "*Steady Habits*," by making many assertions of which he is totally ignorant. He says *Steady Habits* "has detailed *facts* which are *untrue*;"* that he "believes the writer is known to him," and "that he is the man of *Steady Habits*, who, under various false pretences, obtained six barrels of poudrette without paying for it," that "he *(Steady Habits)* avows that he followed the directions," and says, "*this is untrue*," and that "he has insinuated what he *knows to be false*, namely, that the Lodi company make use of *peat, coal ashes*, and a little night soil to make a barrel of poudrette." He also asserts that the writer "Agricola," has no interest in the Lodi Co. Mr Dey then says, that in making poudrette, the Company do not make use of *raw peat*, turf, or meadow mud, nor have they *ever* made use of *ashes from hard coal*, nor coal siftings, &c.

In 1840, Mr Dey circulated a large number of pamphlets to enlighten the public regarding the value of a farm of 400 acres, with improvements, for which he wished to get 200,000 dollars. Among other things on said farm, he says there is "a machine house to *grind peat* in." "On this farm, in detached pieces, is a *peculiar kind of peat*, of the very best quality for the purposes of the [Lodi] Co., which [the *peat*] is *one* of *three* or *four* articles which are used in the compound to disinfect and *exterminate* the gas from the night soil, and reduce it down to *mother earth*." Again: "If the company had to pay the price for *peat* which was paid for it last year, and in proportion to the extent it is contemplated to manufacture poudrette, it is estimated it [the *peat*] would cost not less than $5000, and from that upwards."

No man can doubt that *raw peat* (unless grinding cooks it,) is liberally used in the manufacture of *their* poudrette. If they now have a machine for grinding and sifting *hard coal ashes*, that article may not *now* be as readily discovered as it was in the ten barrels sent me for poudrette.

"Agricola" as well as Anthony must be Solomons in chemistry. Agricola say the only value of manure is *the thing called ammonia* it contains; and that the matter left in a dung heap after the vapor has passed away is of no value.

Early in April, 1840, I enclosed to A. Dey, ten dollars, and ordered five barrels of poudrette to be sent to me immediately. *He* got my money, and *I* got from him a number of letters, and finally five barrels of his *nostrum* called poudrette, about the 25th of May. On the 26th, I applied it in the hill for *Broom* corn, on the 27th for *Mercer* potatoes, and on the 28th for *Northern Dent* corn—and to *all* according to *directions* in the pamphlet, except measuring it in a *pewter* measure instead of a tin one or the hand. On the 28th, I drilled this *stuff* with parsnips and carrots in alternate rows, also with ruta baga, and used it with melons and cucumbers, without the least perceivable benefit to either crop. About this time, or perhaps earlier, I ordered five barrels more, without remitting the money, for the purpose of experimenting with it on tobacco. These five barrels were received the 12th of June, and the principal part of this was applied to a portion of three separate pieces of tobacco, on the 13th, 18th, and 20th of June, and on a few rows of plants about the middle of July. I personally attended to all this, and placed boards with date, &c. written upon them, at every place where used. The labor was principally performed by my sons, who were all desirous to be benefited by its use, but were sadly disappointed. It must have been, that this nostrum sent as poudrette, was worthless as a manure, or the kinds of corn, potatoes, &c., with the use of the pewter measure instead of a tin one, neutralized for a time the stuff, as he says in his pamphlet, *urate* or *poudrette* if mixed with other manures, will operate on those manures until they are *consumed* before they are beneficial to plants!!!

*Who before ever heard of *facts untrue*?

About this time Mr Dey was very profuse in his communications to me—sent me a lot of his pamphlets, for which I was heavily postage taxed, and by letter requested me to distribute them and obtain subscribers for his stock. I distributed a part of his pamphlets, but got no stock taken.

Finally I was appointed agent, under something of a new organization, with the offer of a heavy commission, to induce me to aid them in filling their gull trap.

I paid ten dollars for the first five barrels received; for freight and cartage, $3 50;—for freight and cartage of the other five barrels, I paid $3 50; for postage of pamphlets, letters, agency, &c., about $5. All this was paid for the ten barrels of humbug nostrum, and lost, besides the labor.

It is well known by every intelligent agriculturist, that night soil has been advantageously used in Flanders, France, England and China as a manure for a great length of time—but that is no proof that the article sold by A. Dey as poudrette, is good for any thing as a manure.

The greatest medical quack as well as the greatest quack in poudrette making, find no difficulty in procuring names to append to whatever puff they may choose to make of their nostrums, even if it is an "Insect and Worm Destroyer," or a "powder poison." Believing that the public, with my experiment detailed, will be satisfied they were fairly made, and that the stuff sent me was worthless as a manure, and that I have paid dearly for the humbug, I shall leave Mr Dey to be satisfied or not with the results, for I at present will not further trouble you, your readers, your printer's "devil" or myself, regarding him or his humbugs.

HENRY WATSON.

East Windsor, May 31st, 1843.

☞ We hope to be bored with no more communications from any quarter touching the Lodi company, its wares, or its president—certainly we shall *publish* no more if sent us—as the subjects are of no interest to ninetynine in a hundred of our readers—and in saying this we mean no disrespect to those concerned in the controversy, who, for any personal knowledge of ours to the contrary, may be honorable men.

Hoot it out.—A young lady was magnetized by a gentleman of this town—one of our neighbors—last week, and while in the magnetic state had a tooth—a real hard customer, too—drawn without moving a muscle. There's nothing in it—this matter of animal magnetism—all humbug—all imagination—hoot it out! So say the would-be-thought wise men of the nineteenth century.—*Nashua Tel.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Boston, Wednesday, June 14, 1843.

GLIMPSES BY THE WAY.

Worcester, June 9, 1843.

Yesterday we left the City of Notions, expecting to be absent from our editorial sanctum for two or three weeks. But we shall try to furnish our readers with a few things from our own pen as we move on. Railroad travelling furnishes opportunity for *glimpses* only at the farms and fields. On our way yesterday to this "heart of the Commonwealth," we thought the grass generally looked well. Some fields and neighborhoods showed little else than sorrel; but generally appearances and promises were good. The spring grains are backward, but look green and healthful. Winter rye, which by the way, is now a much more common crop in the eastern part of the State than it was a few years ago—this rye generally appears promising, though the crop per acre, taking all fields together, will not be large, for we noticed in almost every field that there are many spots where the rye was winter killed. These spots are the basins, often very shallow, in which water was retained while the ground was frozen. We differ from many who have noticed the killing of grain last winter, as to the particular agent of destruction. Some say that the great *depth of snow* caused the harm by its pressure. We do not give in to that opinion. We must dissent—because the same kind of harm, which we notice in our own grain fields this season, we are most accustomed to see after open winters. And it was the *openness* of last *January* which caused death to many spots of rye. Or, rather, it was a rain followed immediately by severe cold. Near the end of January, while there was frost in the ground, a heavy fall of rain came, which filled with water all the hollow or basin shaped spots upon the surface of the field. Intense cold followed the rain, and wherever the collected waters were not more than one, two or three inches deep, they were soon congealed, and the rye, branch and root, was encased in ice. This freezing, as similar freezings had done in years past, killed out much of our rye; and we think this was the cause generally of the death of that which has died the past winter. Not the snows of February and March, but the rain and cold of January thinned the grain fields. The rye that survived, (and the greater part of it did,) looks well.

Indian corn has hardly made its appearance to railroad travellers. It is backward. On one or two fields we could see it in rows as we were whirled along—but generally it was quite indistinct. This backwardness is not against the *growth* of the corn, though it does increase the danger that the corn will not ripen before the coming of autumnal frosts.

Caterpillars.—Shame to the farmers along many parts of the Worcester Railroad. The apple trees for miles and miles, are stript of *every green leaf*—literally *every leaf—by caterpillars.* We never saw worse ravages by the canker worm. Nests by dozens, and twenties, and fifties, are seen on a single tree—nakedness and desolation is on all the branches. Never before did we see such destruction permitted to go on by an enemy that can be easily subdued. If the farmers of this region lose all their fruit, and have their trees harmed for years to come by the stripping which their trees have suffered, then let them not come to *us* for sympathy. We shall only reprove them for neglect. They might have saved their fruit and their trees. The caterpillar may be thoroughly destroyed. It takes *time* and *labor*, we know—but one man could, in three weeks' time, destroy every nest and all the worms in it, that has been made on any five hundred of these trees that are now leafless. Yes, three or four dollars worth of labor to each hundred trees, would have saved the whole. Where the canker worm works we can have pity for the owner of the orchard, for it is not easy to subdue this worm. But he who loses his fruit and trees by caterpillars, gets nothing but what his negligence or laziness deserves. We have no pity for him. When eight or ten miles below our present stopping place, we said, (while gazing upon the desolation,) to a Worcester gentleman, "*What town is this?*" "I do n't know," said he: "*It ain't Worcester.*" "We congratulate you," said we. We did it heartily; for we should be ashamed to own as fellow-townsmen farmers (?) who so shamefully leave the caterpillars to do their destructive work.

COMPOSTS.

June, on most farms, affords opportunities for preparing materials for compost. The soil by the road-side may now be taken up and formed into heaps, so that its vegetable matters shall undergo decomposition, and all its parts become fitted by mechanical reduction and probable chemical changes, to benefit the lands when they shall be applied in autumn next year. It is not the deep deposit of rich black soil alone, that is worth digging up and using; but *common* soil, sandy wash, clayey wash, and all such matters by the way side, may be turned to profitable use. If the road by you is much travelled, there will be a collection of rich matter by the fences which line the road. The gravel, and loam and clay are constantly being ground down by the wheels, and the feet of horses and oxen; and in dusty times, a considerable quantity of this finely pulverized matter is lodged under and near the walls. This powder is enriching. The silica and potash it contains are in a state much more favorable to the growth of plants than they are before the rolling of the wheels and the treading of beasts of burthen. This *dust*—this fine silica—or silicate of potash, is an important ingredient in the most of our crops;—it gives firmness to grass, to grains, and Indian corn; it abounds in potato tops, and in almost every thing that we grow upon the farm. Now in nearly all soil by the road-side, we shall find more of this than in the soil of the open field; consequently the soil from the road would be a good addition to that of the field: it will pay for working up into heaps, throwing over, and spreading out as a top-dressing upon grass lands, and for using in various composts. We do not call it rich manure, but it is worth using. The leisure days or hours of the present month, will be a good time for piling it up.

The hog-yard must now be faithfully attended to. The warm weather of June, especially if it be wet, is very favorable for the making of good composts by the swine. Let them have soil, meadow-mud, old hay, leaves, &c., in abundance, and treat them like reasonable beings, who seek a "quid pro quo" for what they do. Hide some corn under the matters which you throw into their yards, and they will soon understand that if they dig down to the corn they are entitled to the prize as a reward for their labors. Thus stimulated they will work well. If you do not get profit from them in this way, they are hardly worth keeping, at the present prices of pork.

If you have manure left now that your planting is over, you should mix it up and coat it over with soil or meadow-mud; and thus not only preserve it from throwing off its richness into the air, but neutralize the acids in your soil or muck, and fit them to enrich your land.

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS.

Saturday, June 10, 1843.

From the garden of the Messrs. Winship, Brighton—two very large bouquets.

By Mr Joshua Norton, Jr., Chelsea—five very fine specimens of Pæony Moutan.

Bouquets, by Messrs. Warren, Hovey, Bowditch, Sumner and Walker.

By Mr A. Bowditch—Roses: var. Multiflora, Undulata, Noisette, and Pione, Honeysuckle, var. Tartarian; Snow-balls, &c.

By Mr Wm. Meller, Roxbury—32 fine seedling Geraniums; Cactus Speciossimus; Rose, var. Princess Maria; Dahlia, var. Countess of Liverpool; Passiflora Alata, Mimulus Denhamii, and two fine bouquets.

By J. F. Trull, Dorchester—Magnolia tripetala, Pæonies and bouquets.

From the garden of Messrs. Hovey—Tritonia longiflora, Cereus Splendidum, C. Jenkensoni, and three new seedlings. Also, Roses of the following sorts: Hermosa, Lamarque, Marjolin, Miss Sargent, Suter's Susanna, Noisette elegans, Laurencia rubra, Augustin Leleur, White Tea, Romeo, Louis Philip of Angiers, Cramoise superieure, Roi de Cramoise, Victoire Modeste, Triumphant.

By Mr Wm. Kenrick, Newton—Pæonies: Moutan, Arborea, Papaveracea; Iris Libirica, and others; Laburnum, Yellow Day Lily; Scarlet and Double White Hawthorns; Purple Beech, &c.

By Mr Jno. A. Kenrick, Newton—Double White and new Scarlet Hawthorn; Dutch Pipe; Pæony Albicans, Rosea, Rubra, Tennuifolia, &c. Azalias, 7 var.; Scotch Laburnum, Magnolia tripetala and Cordata; early white Italian, red and white Tartarian and Caucasian Honeysuckles; Pæony Banksii and Papaveracea, &c.

We should not do justice to the cultivators of some of the above specimens, were we to pass them by without a brief notice. The seedling Geraniums, by Mr Meller, of Roxbury, were very fine, and remarkably well grown. Mr M. is one of the best, if not *the* best, geranium grower in this State.

In the stand of the Messrs. Hovey, there were some superb blooms of Roses and Cereus, that did them credit: they were fine, well grown specimens, and put into the stands in good order.

In the collection of Mr Wm. Kenrick, and also of Mr John A. Kenrick, of Newton, we noticed specimens of Laburnum and Hawthorn, (May bush of the English.) We know of no shrubs more beautiful and deserving of cultivation.

"A bush of May flowers with the bees about them—
Ah, sure no tasteful nook would be without them;
And let a lush laburnum o'ersweep them,
And let long grass grow round the roots, to keep them
Moist, cool, and green."

For the Committee,
S. WALKER, *Ch'mn.*

Notice.—The premiums for the best display of Pæonies, will be awarded on Saturday, June 24th.

Per order, S. WALKER.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

The table of the rooms was finely decorated today with superior specimens of fruits, viz:

From J. C. Howard, Woodland Grove, Roxbury—8 dishes Grapes—Black Hamburg, finely colored and rich bloom; White Chasselas, very large berries; Miller's Burgundy, very superior specimens.

From J. F. Allen, Salem—Royal George Peaches—(clingstone.) They were uncommonly beautiful specimens. Black Hamburg grape, large and beautiful; Barsauraba grape, very fine.

John A. Kenrick, Newton—Coggswell Apples, of 1842, in fine order, and upon trial by the committee, found to be of fair flavor and of much perfume.

For the Committee,
J. L. L. F. WARREN.

EXHIBITION OF VEGETABLES.

The finest Rhubarb ever exhibited in the Hall, was brought by the Messrs. Hovey—of the variety known as *Myatt's Victoria*—12 stalks of which weighed 10 lbs., within an ounce.

Cucumbers, by Mr J. L. L. F. Warren.

JNO. A. KENRICK.

☞Soak your Ruta Baga seed in tanner's oil.

THERMOMETRICAL

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending June 11.

June, 1843.		7, A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	5	60	90	85	E.
Tuesday,	6	51	81	52	E.
Wednesday,	7	48	66	62	N. W.
Thursday,	8	60	74	62	E.
Friday,	9	52	60	54	N. E.
Saturday,	10	54	83	74	S.
Sunday,	11	66	58	57	E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, June 12, 1843.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At Market 400 Beef Cattle, 12 pairs Working Oxen, 20 Cows and Calves, 600 Sheep, and 540 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—Prices were not sustained on the second and third quality. We quote First quality $5.25, a $5.50. Second quality, 4.75 a $5.00. Third quality, $4.00 a $4.75.

Working Oxen.—No sales noticed.

Cows and Calves.—Sales, $14, $18, $22 and $27.

Sheep.—Lots were sold at $1.50, $1.75 and $2.50.

Swine.—Lots to peddle at 4 1-2 for sows, and 5 1-2 for barrows. A lot of small Pigs 6 and 8. At retail, from 5 to 7.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 to 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 45 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 10 to 12c.—Southern, 7 a 9 c. Flax Seed, $0 00 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $4 50 per bushel.

GRAIN. Duty, Corn, Rye and Beans, free; Barley 20 per cent.; Oats 20 per cent.

There is a fair demand for good mealing Corn, and the stock at market of this description is not large.

Corn—Northern, old, bushel 00 to 60—Southern, round yellow, old, 58 a 59—Southern flat yellow, new, 56 a 57—do. do. white 00 a 53—do New Orleans, 50 a 53—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 00 a 63—do. Southern, 58 a 60—Oats, Southern, 30 a 31—Northern do. 33 to 34—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 23 a 25—Bran, 15 a 18.

FLOUR. The heavy arrivals of Ohio have prevented any further advances in prices.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $5 37 a 0 00 —do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00 do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 5 37 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 25 a 5 37 —Fredericksburg, low l'd 4 mos. $5 31 a 5 37—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 0 00 a 0 00 —Georgetown, $5 25 a 5 50—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 5 37 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 31 a 5 37— do fancy brands $5 50 a 5 62 — Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $5 00 a 5 25. Rye, $3 25 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 87 a 3 00.

PROVISIONS. A farther advance in prices has been realized for Western Pork. There is but little doing in Lard. Beef market without change.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 00 a 8 50—Navy—$7 50 a 7 75.—No. 1, 0 00 a 7 00—do Prime $0 00 a 0 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 50 a 13 00—do Clear $00 00 a 12 00 do. Mess, 10 00 a 10 50—do Prime $8 00 a 8 50—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Batter, shipping, 0 a 00—do store, uninspected, 7 a 8—do dairy, 10 cts. a 14—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6¼ a 6¾ —do South and Western, 6 a 6½ — Hams, Boston, 6½ a 7 — Southern and Western, 5½ a 6¾—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 4 a 6—do new milk, 5½ a 6¼.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, free. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 30 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

There has been no material change in prices since our last report.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 36 a 40 c.—American full blood, do 33 a 34—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 00—Do. 1-2 do 29 a 30—1-4 and common do 25 a 27 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 23—Do. unwashed, 10 a 13—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 26 a 30—No. 1 do. do. do. 23 a 25—No. 2 do do do 15 a 20—No. 3 do do do 12 a 15.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

1st sort Mass. 1842, lb. 12 a 13. 2d do. do. do. 0 a 0.

HAY, 14 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $10 to 12.

HEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 4 to 6c.—New 6 to 7.

EGGS, 11 a 12.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

For Sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 100 varieties of the finest hardy Herbaceous Plants, from 25 to 50 cents per root—20 different varieties for 5 dollars. Now is the time for planting.

ALSO,

A fine collection of DOUBLE PICOTEE and CLOVE PINKS; PÆONIES; IRIS; POLYANTHUSES; COWSLIPS, &c. Boston, May 3, 1843.

BURDEN'S IMPROVED PATENT HORSE SHOES.

The subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to the public, that after years of study and labor, he has perfected his machinery for the manufacture of HORSE SHOES, which he now offers at the price of Horse Shoe Iron in bar of *equal quality*, thus saving the expense of making, (which amounts in all cases to the first cost of the iron,) besides the Shoes are more easily fitted to the hoof, and in no danger of pricking, the holes being all punched at a proper distance from the edge, The quality of the iron is also warranted superior to any heretofore used for the purpose.

All persons desirous of testing the great value and superiority of these over hand made Shoes, by sending $5 by mail or otherwise, 100 lbs assorted sizes will be immediately forwarded, warranted to suit the section of the country for which they are ordered, by applying to the subscriber at the works—Kellogg & Co.; Warren, Hart & Lesley, Troy—John Townsend; Lewis Benedict & Co., Albany—Piersons & Co., New York—Charles Smith, No. 42 India street, Boston—A. M. & B. W. Jones, Philadelphia—and E. Pratt & Brother, Baltimore—where further information may be had on the subject. HENRY BURDEN.

Troy Iron and Nail Factory, April 1, 1843.

SWEET POTATO SLIPS

Just received and for sale by JOSEPH BRECK & Co., 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. May 10.

HARRIS' TREATISE ON INSECTS.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Harris' Treatise on Insects. Price $2. Also, the second edition of Dana's Muck Manual, price 62½ cts. Feb 15.

POUDRETTE! POUDRETTE!!

The subscribers keep constantly on hand, and for sale, Poudrette in quantities to suit purchasers; packed in Barrels in order for shipping, or transportation by wagon or Rail Road.

The experience of five years past has satisfied many farmers, that this manure has the quickest operation upon vegetable matter, producing greater abundance, and is the cheapest manure they have ever tried.

Orders left at the New England Seed Store, and at the factory in Brookline, will meet with prompt attention.

For sale by J.BRECK & CO, 51 and 52 North Market st., Boston. Oct. 26.

SILK BUSINESS.

Silk Worm Eggs, Pea nuts, and Sulphurs, at $2 50 per ounce.

Mulberry Trees. Cantons and Multicaulis at $60 per thousand delivered in Boston, by J. R. BARBOUR.

Oxford, Jan. 25, 1843. Near Depot on N. and W. R. Road. Feb. 1.

SEED BARLEY.

100 bushels prime Seed Barley, for sale by

April 25. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

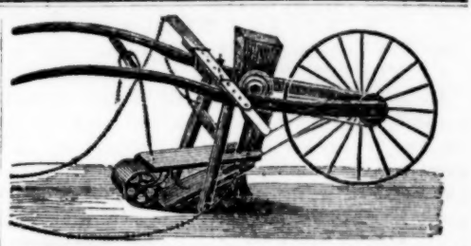
MUCK MANUAL.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., The Muck Manual for Farmers. By Dr S. L. Dana; price 62½.

Boston, April 13.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.



WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED SEED SOWER.

WILLIS has made some considerable improvements in his Seed Sower, making it complete as time and hard study can possibly make it. In using this machine, the farmer may be certain that his seed is put into the ground, and at the same time in the best possible manner. There has been a great difficulty in machines for sowing garden seeds; they are very apt to clog up, and the farmer might go over an acre of land and not sow a single seed; but not so with this; it is so constructed that it cannot possibly clog. In using this sower, the farmer can save one half of his seed, and do the work at less than one quarter the expense of the common way of sowing his seeds, and have it done in a much better manner; it opens the furrow, drops the seed, covers it over and rolls them down. It will sow any kind of Garden Seeds; say Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, Turnips, Carrots, Beets, Parsnips, Onions, &c.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, Boston, Market Street.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

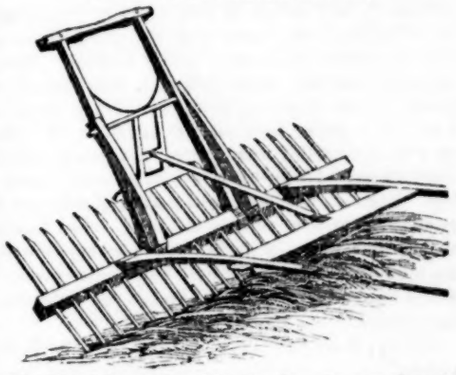
SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE,

A splendid article, will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

May 24. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

REVOLVING HORSE RAKE.



The Revolving Rake which has been in general use in most parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is found to be one of the most useful and labor saving machines now in use. One man and horse with a boy to lead, will rake on an average from 25 to 30 acres per day, with ease, and do the work well. They are coming into very general use in all parts of the country, and will, no doubt, in a few years supersede the use of the common hand rake. There is a great advantage in this rake over all others, as the person using it does not have to stop the horse to unload the rake.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street, Boston

May 24. JOSEPH BRECK & Co.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCENTRICITIES OF A MADMAN.

Mr ——, a lawyer in Vermont, doing a good business, at once became insane, and took it into his head to abandon the practice of law, and engage in basket-making. He was at first a very awkward hand at this employment, but by dint of perseverance, he soon became very skillful, and could weave a basket as well as he had formerly woven an argument at the bar. He followed this business about six months, when taking a new notion into his head, he abandoned it for that of chair bottoming.

The material used in this business was bark, which is stripped from the trees in summer, when it peels most easily. Having come home one day covered from head to foot with mud, he was asked where he had been, that he had got so thoroughly bedaubed. He answered, that he had been in a neighboring swamp after elm bark, of which he exhibited a strip about forty feet long.

"Do you remark this?" said he triumphantly.

"Yes; but how does this account for your being so muddy? It is n't usual to find mud on the top of a tree."

"No, but you may sometimes find it at the bottom, though. I 'll tell you how I found it. I cut the bark near the root of the tree, and then stripped it upwards, expecting it would come to an end and break off, and run itself out after a while. But it hung on like a suit in chancery—and I stript, and stript, until it run up forty feet, and as strong as ever. Thinks I to myself, there is no use in pursuing the thing any farther, and so I 'll enter a *nolle prosequi*. But not to lose the benefit of what I had done—that was the point to be decided. I wished at least to save costs. But pshaw! I forgot—I 'm not a lawyer now. Well, as I was saying, I looked at the subject to see how I could secure the bark. It was too strong for me to break off. At any rate, thought I, there 's more ways than one to skin a cat: if I cannot break off this bark, I can climb up by it. No sooner thought than done. I seized hold of the strip, and placing my feet against the trunk of the tree, ran up hand over hand. By this method of climbing, you will perceive that my back must have been downward, and nearly in a horizontal position,—my feet being braced against the tree, and my head standing from it in an angle of nearly ninety degrees. Having arrived at the proper height, I was then in a quandary how to get my knife out of my pocket, and how to get it open when it was out. If I let go with one hand, I was fearful the other would not hold me. However, says I, it 's neck or nothing. I 'll try the experiment at any rate—so I gripped powerfully with my left hand, while I took out my knife with my right, and opening it with my teeth, whipped off the bark as clean as the law would dock an entail. And what do you think was the result?"

"Why, you came down flat on your back, of course."

"Right, gentlemen of the jury—a very correct verdict indeed. I came down flat in the mud. Never was a client laid flatter on his back than I, and never was one so completely bedaubed with filth and mud. But, thanks to the yielding nature of the soil, I saved my bones, and only brought away the mischief on my coat. I gained my cause too—which is more than I can say of all my undertakings."

The company laughed heartily at the ex-lawyer's account of his exploit, while the latter, hanging his coat up in the sun, said that the mud, like the old woman's grease, would rub off when it was dry.

He continued awhile longer to follow his occupation of chair bottoming, when suddenly becoming sane again, he resumed the practice of law, and has, ever since, preferred laying his opponents on their backs, in a legal way, to being laid on his own in so ludicrous a manner as that above related.—*N. Y. Trans.*

The Spirit of Liberty.—Soon after the close of the long French war in Europe, a boy was standing on one of the bridges that cross the Thames at London, with a number of small birds in a cage for sale. A sailor, who was passing, observed the little prisoners fluttering about the cage, peeping through the wires, and manifesting their eager desire to regain their liberty. He stood for some time looking at the birds, apparently lost in thought. At length, addressing the boy, he said—

"How much do you ask for your birds?"

"Sixpence apiece, sir, was the reply.

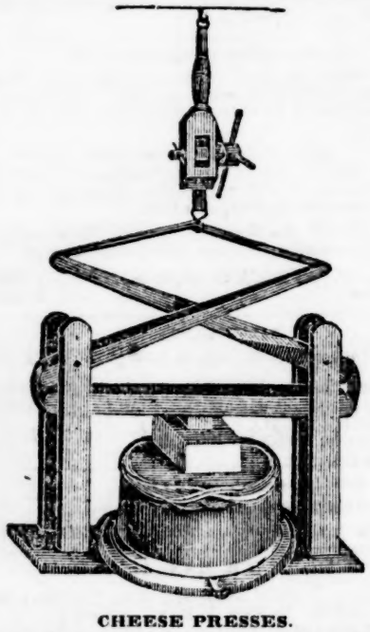
"I do n't ask how much apiece," said the sailor, "but how much for the lot: I want to buy the whole."

The boy began his calculations, and finally offered them for six shillings and sixpence.

"There 's your money," said the sailor, and opening the cage door, he let all the birds fly away.

The boy, looking quite astonished, exclaimed, "What did you do that for, sir? You have lost all your birds."

"I 'll tell you, boy. I was shut up three years in a French prison, as a prisoner-of-war—I know how precious liberty is, and I am resolved never to see any thing deprived of it that I can make free."
—*Selected.*



CHEESE PRESSES.

SELF-GOVERNING CHEESE PRESSES—two kinds—lately improved by the Shakers. These are so constructed that they govern and regulate themselves without weights, and are by far the best presses now in use.

For sale at the N. E. Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market street. JOS. BRECK & CO.

June 7, 1843.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

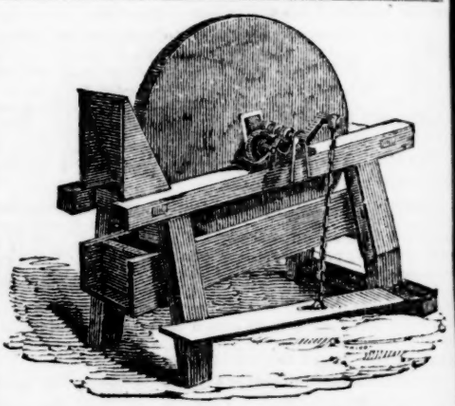
At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,

21 School Street.